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Awaken the gamer in you

People make the mistake of thinking that being a "gamer" means you have a great PC or one of the popular consoles, and spend inordinate amounts of time staring at screens. Yes, those people are *video* gamers, but there's a gamer inside all of us – you, me, our grandparents, parents, everyone!

The oldest known proof of a game is a Backgammon board and dice excavated in Iran, from the ancient city of *Shahr-e-Sookhteh* (the burnt city), which was built around 3200 BC and abandoned in about 2100 BC (basically 4,000-5000 years ago).

Almost everyone on Earth today, and certainly all of Digit's readers have at some point played games and enjoyed them – cards, dice games, chess... something. Digit readers are just more into video gaming than the average Indian, but that's just a difference of mediums, not natures.

There are several aspects to gaming that make it come naturally to humans. Entertainment is perhaps the most significant, since we all need something to do – perhaps why we watch the rubbish on TV these days, or listen to music, read, play games, etc.

Satiating our competitive streak is another big pull – it's why we've always played games, sports and everything else in life – the desire to be *better than* the rest is ingrained in our psyche. We also need to exercise our minds, and that's where mental games, or puzzle games, hook us. The brain releases feel-good chemicals when you finish such games, which in turn gives you a sense of accomplishment.

Anxiety or fear may sound like strange emotions that draw us to games, but they're what add to the fun of everything – it's why some of us love horror movies and nail-biting sports finales. Games also cause these emotions, and a rather tough battle in Chess will likely trigger very similar changes in emotion as when a hardened FPS gamer first played *DOOM*, or any other similar game.

Many people also love the escapism that games offer – visiting alien worlds, re-living events of the past or future, being a wizard in a kingdom of magic, or basically letting our imaginations run wild. It isn't only video games that offer this either. *Monopoly*, for instance, lets us live out our fantasies of being rich property owners.

Video games, though, have some unique offerings for the gamer in us – sex, violence and rebelliousness. The *Dark Side* in us all (males especially, if some studies are to be believed) needs to rebel against society and the morals imposed upon us. While most such gamers wouldn't hurt a fly and are respectful of women, they will happily revel in all the blood and gore and sexist fun that games provide.

Rockstar Games has successfully exploited this Dark Side of gamers by hiding unlockable content of a sexual or violent nature in a game. Although it stirred up quite a ruckus and made headlines, and even got the game banned in some places, it only fuelled the desire of gamers to want to play said game. The forbidden fruit effect, so to speak.

Warning! Shameless plugs ahead: While SKOAR! – the next edition of which will be out with our December 2011 special issue – caters mainly to the hardcore gamer, Digit chose to look at how there's a gamer in all of us for the specific reason of encouraging it.

I'm not going to sit about citing all the various studies that claim to provide evidence about whether or not games are good for us, because those are usually studying a minority of games and people – the SKOAR! type. For the rest of us, who probably spend more time playing *Angry Birds*, *FarmVille*, mobile games or *Solitaire* than any other game, what matters most is fulfilling our mental need of the hour – entertainment, competitiveness, escapism, etc.

This issue (and the DVDs that accompany it) aims to satisfy those urges by giving you some suggestions about which games to play. We try and show you how your love for a particular game can lead to socialising with like-minded people, and also take a light-hearted dig at a game that's pretty popular with the Facebook generation. Of course, there's always something for developers and SKOAR! fanatics, as usual, but in the end, our cover story aims to make the point that *everyone* is a gamer at heart.

Robert Sovereign-Smith
Executive Editor
editor@thinkdigit.com

"Almost everyone on Earth today, and certainly all of Digit's readers have at some point played games and enjoyed them – cards, dice games, chess... something."

Liked or hated this column? Write in to *editor@thinkdigit.com* and express yourself.

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Sony Bravia HX925
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Vodafone 555 Blue
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Zotac Zbox Nano Plus AD10

Gaming peripherals test
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Cooler Master QuickFire Rapid (Black)
Cooler Master QuickFire Rapid (Red)
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Razer Cyclosa (Bundle)
Razer Starcraft 2
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Zebronics Judwaa 5 (Bundle)
Cooler Master CMStorm Inferno
Cooler Master CMStorm Sentinel Advance
Cooler Master CMStorm Spawn
NZXT Avatar S
Razer Spectre (Starcraft II bundle)
Razer Imperator
Razer Orochi Black
Razor Abyssus (Cyclosa bundle)
Steelseries Kinzu
Steelseries Xai
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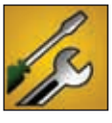

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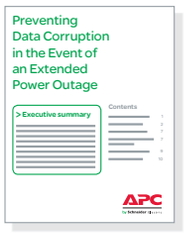

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External GPU for laptops?
Check out this cool DIY to crank up your laptop's graphic capabilities – for all those who asked about external GPUs in the past: **http://lifehac.kr/nOlkcq**

Feedback about the October 2011 issue of Digit

✉ I'm an avid reader of Digit since the past 3 years and have never missed any issue. I am so attracted to this magazine that I can spend the whole day reading the same topics. Your hard work to bring out this magazine is extraordinary. I'm a proud Digit forum member and I must say that you've made me famous in my college as I'm the most superb geek in our class. Thanks a lot for that. I love you Digit, keep up the good work, we are with you.

Ravi Chakravorty

We're glad to know that Digit guided you in your journey to becoming a superb geek in your class. Thanks for your encouraging words.

Nimish

✉ I've been reading Digit for the past 3 years, I really liked Fast Track to Nanotechnology. Can you please cover more topics such as quantum physics and quantum mechanics in your coming Fast Tracks? They are the most spoken topics these days in most of the research and education fields.

Manoj Vangala

Hi Manoj, it's good to know that you found the Fast Track to Nanotechnology interesting. I'd like to know what other readers think of Manoj's suggestions for Fast Track topics. If the majority agree, we'll do it.

Robert

✉ I've been reading your magazine since a long time (when it was called Chip) and also followed the Hindi version. I've never felt the need to write in before since my thoughts were always in agreement with someone whose mail has been posted. Being busy with work, I had to skip checking DVDs, but never skipped the Fast Track. I started surfing the October 2011 DVD. I didn't have any issue with content but with the design. I use an HD monitor with 1920 x 1080 resolution, but have kept it at 1600 x 900. The major problem I had with the DVD was the extremely small font size (Here I'm talking about the description fonts) which is very tough to read and strains eyes. As an alternative to increasing font size, I suggest giving a button to increase it as per our need. Another problem I faced was the small-sized thumbnail which if it was bigger you could show what exactly the game or software looked like. The big debate among Digit readers right now is whether to keep two DVDs or two Fast Tracks. I suggest keeping two DVDs rather than two Fast Tracks because sometimes free software is hard to get. For instance, I still use TuneUp Utilities 2007 Digit edition (It completes my need so no need to get an upgrade). I know there are readers who've suggested keeping Fast Tracks but I realise that even though I have broadband internet, I don't have to waste my time searching for the best software since Digit already provides good software.

Another issue I face is that on every page you give links and details. Could you give the same links on DVDs since it's easier to copy-paste. The short films you keep adding in DVDs are appreciated but you only give animated films, live action would also be great fun. I miss the nice collection of wallpapers. I think I've been with Digit since a decade and will be there till I die. I've seen lots of change and each time it was a change for the better. At a time there was HTML, Macromedia Flash/Director DVD presentation but now the content is more dynamic and impressive. Keep up the good work. Thanks for your efforts to keep us updated to be able to compete in this world.

Kiran

Thanks for the feedback and suggestions Kiran. We'll try and implement them. As far as the wallpapers are concerned, we've been bundling HD wallpapers each month. You can find them once you right-click on the Digit icon and enter the main folders in the DVD.

Sambhav

✉ Great job on the October Diwali edition of Digit. Two Fast Tracks and one DVD is how I believe the magazine should be made. But I have a few complaints: Fast Track topics are not really what they used to be (can you please explain the old stuff again, as some of it has changed too drastically). HTML 5 Fast Track seemed to be an advertorial for Internet Explorer 9. Some emails to Agent001 were unacknowledged. Besides these, please continue in the direction that you've been going.

Parth Mittal

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Introducing the IceCream Sandwich
The newest flavour of Android is released with a face recognition unlock, NFC, new user interface and camera capabilities. Read more on page 74

Project Roslyn
Microsoft reinvented compilers with Roslyn Technology that deconstructs every piece of code as a service

Thanks for your vote for the ongoing DVDs vs. Fast Tracks debate. The results are in, and after thousands of votes, the DVD guys won 54 to 46 per cent. Until and unless the majority of Digit readers start demanding Fast Tracks, not DVDs, it looks like we'll be going back to the 2 DVDs bundle. I am the first one to admit that I was wrong, and in this case, my gut feeling was that Fast Tracks would be more preferred – they aren't, not just yet.

We get hundreds of mails a day, and some of them get by us, especially during issue closing, but we'll renew our efforts to try and answer all mails.

Robert

✉ Flux and DBAN were really great in this month's issue. It would be very helpful to new programmers if you could provide a Fast Track on 'C Programming' / 'career in IT/CSE'. It would also be very helpful for youth if you provided some information in Digit about campus ambassador programs / campus crew programs by various companies like Google, Microsoft, IBM, Opera and how we can apply.

Aman Maharshi

Thanks for writing in. We cover a wide range of topics in our Fast Tracks so look out for the ones you requested. We also cover industry news in our Industry Connect section so watch out for that. we will try and cover more campus ambassador news in the future.

Jayesh

✉ I was about to write regarding the delay in my issue but if it's because of a mega package like the one you gave in October, then I don't mind it. This is my first letter to you. You're the best tech magazine and I'm happy just to get the magazine. I really liked the September edition and especially the accessories article. I would also like to thank you for the Java Fast Track you published in Jan 2011 issue that helped me pass my Java exam and project. The Cowon earphones I received as a subscription gift are really good. Keep up the good work guys, thanks for all the knowledge you impart to the readers. I am proud to be a Digit reader.

Suyash Swaroop
Patna

Thanks for the words Suyash, it really means a lot to the whole team.

Robert

✉ Hello Digit! I'm a school student and I study in class 9. I've been a subscriber of Digit since the past 3 months and wait eagerly for the magazine and the DVD every month. The DVDs are really beneficial and have lot to teach. According to me, the World View section is the most interesting one. January 2011 issue was very useful to me as it had the advertisement of Kurukshetra. I also liked the part where you listed all the top software and games of last year. Your video of tablets on the DVD was also fabulous. Till date I found the Windows 7 Fast Track most interesting and helpful. I want to make some suggestions. First of all, you shouldn't provide the Fast Tracks on the DVDs as there's problem of electricity in many towns in India. I observed the January 2011 magazine was full of advertisements, please try to lessen or decrease the advertisement in the magazine. Please try to provide some more e-books on your DVDs and also try to add tutorial videos of Java, C++.

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Some letters need no answers

✉ I studied English literature and neither knew nor learnt anything of computer. In 2003 I became a lecturer in a college in West Bengal. I purchased a computer for typing which I leant by following our clerical staff. Some months later I was looking for some wallpapers and in Howrah station I came across a magazine named Digit giving free wallpapers with the magazine. I purchased it and enjoyed the contents and touched a DVD first time (I was looking for one that time). But then I started reading the magazine and instantly fell in love with it.

One year later I became an expert of Windows (according to my colleagues!) and would fix many problems for my college including LAN, ODBC etc. Because of advanced information on gaming I became an expert in gaming too. But in that process of tweaking and overclocking I damaged my hard disks and processors a number of times. Some more months passed on and the local vendors would consult me for new products, configurations and gadgets. A guy taught me Photoshop, Coreldraw (and all other software I seem to have learnt from Digit). After that I got my first internet connection when Digit provided a Fast Track on blogging. Some more Fast Tracks on the web and internet followed. I started with Blogger and created a blog for helping English aspirants for West Bengal School Service Commission Exam (http://bit.ly/qvQs2I) and another for students of English literature (http://bit.ly/oHpwWU) which have so far been visited by thousands of visitors from all over the world.

From Digit I came to know of Open Source and became an avid follower. More than that from Open Source I learnt of Open Access. Inspired by it I started an OA Initiative in India. In 2008 I purchased a site, designed it and started Rupkatha Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities (www.rupkatha.com) which has become within 3 years one of the premier journals of the world having an international editorial board and readership.

In 2010 I started a magazine on art and design at www.chitrolekha.com. I get some money from Adsense (Digit carried a coverage on it) and pass them onto maintaining the sites. I have helped a number of OA initiatives in India with my technical knowledge.

Now I am doing my PhD on Electronic Literature. But I owe all to Digit which has provided everything whenever I needed sometimes just by coincidence. I'm sorry that I didn't acknowledge your debt earlier.

Tarun Tapas Mukherjee
Paschim Medinipur

Dead iPhones
iPhones which has been sent for recycling have 25-50 per cent value of their MRP
http://cnnmon.ie/r1eBq9

After glow AP.2
Wireless controllers manufactured by PDP with exciting features **http://bit.ly/nCd9W5**

This month Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam visited P.R. Pote College of engineering, Amravati and here a technical festival was organized named as Techelons. I participated in this fest and a won 1st rank in the event of Science Model Making and most of the credit I give to Digit to enhance my technical knowledge. I also tried to participate in the Kurukshetra but it was too late so, I will try for it next time. I want your guidance in order to develop more and by this, I end my letter.

Amrut Deshmukh
Amravati, Maharashtra.

Hi Amrut, we are so happy to know that you won the first prize in your college festival. It's readers like you who make us proud, keep up the good work and happy reading.

Robert

✉ I've been reading your magazine for a long time now. And I've acquired good knowledge from your magazine. However, I had asked many questions but haven't got any reply nor did it get published in the magazine. That's the only issue I have with Digit, otherwise the knowledge that you guys give is great. It's up-to-date with the market. Keep doing a good job. I'm looking forward to purchasing an Android phone and am very confused since my budget is ₹15,000. I would also request you to also answer some queries via email so that the person doesn't have to wait for the magazine to come out to see a reply. Thank you for the knowledge.

Farooq Ahmed Khan

Thank you for being a regular reader of Digit and for your kind words. It helps a lot to know that people are appreciating what we're doing. We do make an attempt to feature as many queries as possible in the magazine every month. Most of the time, due to space constraints, many queries are missed out. As for buying an Android phone within a budget of ₹15,000, we suggest checking out the Motorola Defy. Another phone you can check out is the HTC Wildfire S. It's an upgrade from the hugely successful Wildfire. If you want a physical QWERTY keypad as well, do check out the HTC ChaCha.

Vishal

✉ I've been a fan of Digit since 4th grade, now I'm in 12th standard. It gives me immense pleasure to write to you to acknowledging the great work that's put in by you and the crew. Never has a magazine caught my attention the way Digit has, with great printing, humour, and style. Not to forget the content! By god! Any errors I find (rarely) are instantly forgiven by the time I'm on the next page. The October issue is great, the cover image is a great idea. FT to nano technology was just amazing in the previous issue. Please incorporate such topics in the future. My suggestions include- more game reviews and SKOAR! to be more regular. Other than that you guys are my Gods. (after the real Gods, parents and soccer of course.) Exquisite work!

Amruth

Thanks for your admiring words Amruth. We will look into the suggestions given by you. Happy reading

Nimish

✉ Some days back I was thinking how lucky I'm to be able to read Digit magazine. I've read many editions of it and with each edition I've learnt something new about PCs or mobile phones. I first saw Digit at our school library when my friend was reading it. I asked my friend later what he was reading and he told me about your magazine and also told that a DVD comes with it that's full of software and games. And that was the moment that my excitement was above sea level. I went home and told my papa to bring Digit as my birthday gift as it was the day after. He gave me the magazine and I read the whole thing in one day. This was the story of my Digit experience.

Here are some points that I would like to put up for further improvements: Please make Digit more interesting, I mean the written matter is so boring and looks like it's copy and pasted. I'm a student and there must be some easy language too. Please don't give any edition of your magazine or FTs in PDF format as it's very awkward to read on our PCs. Please give your music that you put in your DVD so that it can be played separately. I want to learn soldering and how to make interconnections with that, so please include that. My favourite Fast Track was the DIY one.

Abhimanyu Singh (a geek)
Kumbhirgram, Assam

We're glad you wrote to us and shared your story. Thanks for your feedback Abhimanyu we'll try and incorporate your suggestions. Happy reading.

Jayesh

East is the new West

The Silicon Valley in the US has for long been the fountainhead of new breakthroughs in IT, Recent years have seen the rise of one more technology leader from the East – Taiwan, or as we call it, Silicon Island. The gadget-hungry world is increasingly looking at Taiwan to fulfill its demanding needs

Overheard recently in a mall

"I want to buy a cellphone with lots of features."
"Big brand or a cheap phone?"
"No! Only reputed western brands – such as HTC."

True, HTC is a global leader and is the manufacturer of amongst the most feature-rich phones available... but Western? Unknown to many, HTC is a b rand from our very own Asian neighbour, Taiwan. The impression that all good things in technology come from Western brands, is a clichéd one. The popularity of brands such as Apple and BlackBerry have led to most Indians believing that cutting-edge developments in technology are a phenomenon of the Western world. Perhaps, there's also the tendency to visualise Asia as a mere manufacturing hub for designs, technologies and aesthetic concepts that originate in the West.

Banish the thought...

There's so much innovation happening in Asia that countries such as Taiwan, China, and even India are seeing a patent boom. In 2010, Taiwan was the third-largest filers of patents after the US and Japan, respectively.

Taiwan: the global ICT giant

The sheer amount of innovation happening in Taiwan, and the slew of feature-packed devices that Taiwanese companies release on a regular basis might prompt one to think that Silicon Valley just upped and shifted base to this little island nation. In case you didn't already know, some of the hottest brands in technology are Taiwanese – Acer, one of the leading names in notebooks, tablet PCs, smartphones; ADATA, the world's second largest vendor of DRAM modules, and third-largest for flash drives; ASUS the No. 1 manufacturer of motherboards and a soaring fourth place in consumer portable PCs; Optoma, world No. 1 manufacturer of palm-sized pico-projector; BenQ, World leader in Projectors and LCDs,; Ritek, world leader in DVD storage; MSI, another leader in motherboards and graphics cards; Transcend, a household name in flash Drives, USB pen drives with the world's first "life long quarantee"; Thermaltake, a world recognised cooling system brand among professional gamers are just a handful. Taiwan is at the heart of most ICT products used by technology enthusiasts in India. If you look inside your PC, you will probably find that a major part of it comes from companies based in Taiwan. Ditto with most of the other devices you own. A prime attribute for this is the fact that Taiwan ICT companies are quick to hit the market with innovative offerings, and are backed by a robust servicing and support infrastructure. Most importantly, Taiwan ICT products believe in offering value for the price, which is a key driver for Indian consumers.

Silicon Valley in California faces stiff competition from Taiwan, an important region in the technology space

The Taiwan Govt has been initiating multiple programmes to lend support to the country's ICT industry/brands and help them compete in the global arena. One unity to the brands that stem from Taiwan is largely due to the quality symbol Taiwan Excellence.

TAIWAN EXCELLENCE

Supervised by:

Bureau of Foreign Trade, MOEA, Taiwan, R.O.C.

Organized by:

Taiwan External Trade Development Council

Taiwan Excellence?

Set up in 1992, Taiwan Excellence represents the mark awarded by the Govt. Of Taiwan to companies/products with the highest standards of Innovation, Reliability and Value Worth. The Theme for Taiwan Excellence India 2011 campaign is 'India Intelligence + Taiwan Technology = IT for Excellent Lifestyles.' That the alphabets of India and Taiwan form IT, and the fact that India is reputed for software capabilities, while Taiwan is acknowledged for its hardware superiority, is a great partnership for both countries. The Organiser of Taiwan Excellence, Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), believes that their brands/products provide the best in technology that money can buy, enabling customers to experience a truly enhanced lifestyle.

The 2011 Taiwan ICT Industry Report, published by TAITRA, showcases the rapid advances that Taiwan has made in ICT (Information and Communications Technology). The report opens with these lines, "Taiwan forms an indispensable part of the global Information and Communications Technology (ICT) industry. With roughly 57.7 per cent of global IC components coming out the Asia Pacific, the high-tech island stands at the forefront of industries including notebook computers, wafer contract foundries, IC encapsulation testing and IC

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*PassMark Software, "Consumer Antivirus Performance Benchmarks (2012)," September 2011

design. Moreover, business opportunities created by Taiwan's large-scale manufacturing are being avidly pursued by technology firms from across the world."

For statistic junkies

According to MIC's latest statistics in April 2011, Taiwanese companies led the global market share of 14 ICT product categories and was at the 2nd place in 2 product categories. Taiwanese-owned companies produce more than 70 per cent of all LCD monitors, 88 per cent of all netbooks, and more than 94 per cent of all laptops worldwide! By the end of 2010, Taiwan had a total of 735 listed electronics companies, whose combined revenue was a whopping $411 billion – that's about ₹20 trillion (with a few hundred billion in change left over). The industry growth rate for 2010 was 31.6 per cent, and more than half of the revenues earned by the ICT industry comes from ICT manufacturing, which is principally focussed on the assembly and manufacture of popular devices like PCs and mobile phones. With reputed market analysts like Gartner predicting high growth in the smartphones and computing industry, Taiwan's ICT sector is firmly on the path to high growth. The same TAITRA report also says, "The Island was recently ranked 13 on the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Competitiveness Report for 2011."

Notebooks, smartphones, home entertainment and more

Recently, TAITRA had conducted Interbrand's "2011 Taiwan Global Brands Value Survey," to identify the Top 100 Best Global Brands for 2011, in co-operation with the Bureau of Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Economic Affairs. HTC was judged as the number one brand at the event. HTC was included in the list of top international brands. The technology giant has recorded a remarkable 163 per cent growth rate in its brand value, which now stands at $3.605 billion. The phenomenal growth in the brand's value is being attributed to HTC's successful capture of the Smartphone market over the past year and its active acquisition of various companies for future development of the cloud market.

Many smartphone users in India would eagerly cast their vote for HTC. HTC Wildfire, HTC Wildfire S, HTC Explorer, HTC Sensation, etc., are quite popular in the Indian market. According to the 2011 Taiwan ICT Industry Report published by TAITRA, "HTC recently surpassed Nokia to become the world's third largest Smartphone maker in terms of market value." In 2010, global shipment of Smartphones from Taiwan accounted for 22 per cent of all mobile phone sales, which exceeded 286 million units. In other words, one in almost every four smartphones in the world has been manufactured in Taiwan! Similarly in the tablet space, Taiwan is playing a lead role. Worldwide tablet shipments from the island are forecasted to grow from 35 million units in 2011 to 116 million units in 2014. Likewise brands like Acer, ASUS, MSI, have all been making steady inroads into the India laptop, notebook, netbook and tablet market with a large part of the units manufactured by Taiwanese firms get sold in Asia itself the continent is already on its way to becoming the world's biggest market for technology gadgets.

Taiwan hosts a multitude of technology expos, popuar among which is COMPUTEX TAIPEI, which is the largest computer exhibition in Asia and the second largest in the world, next to CeBIT Germany. Each year, key global businesses come to this event to launch their new products

When it comes to notebook computers, the average monthly production in Taiwan exceeds 14 million units. The 2011 ICT report from TAITRA also reports that the booming notebook industry has provided an excellent base for Taiwan to build up its IC design and display panel industries. Constant innovation has been the hallmark of Taiwan's personal computing industry. Cases in point are the Aspire 5253 and 4253 that Acer launched in 2011. These notebooks are designed especially for productivity, family entertainment and education. MSI's C series of multimedia notebooks – with a CPU that's produced using nano-technology – touched the market in 2011. This device has seen

TAITRA is a non-profit organisation that promotes external trade for the Taiwanese industries. They routinely organize international and regional expos, and experience zone in shopping malls like this

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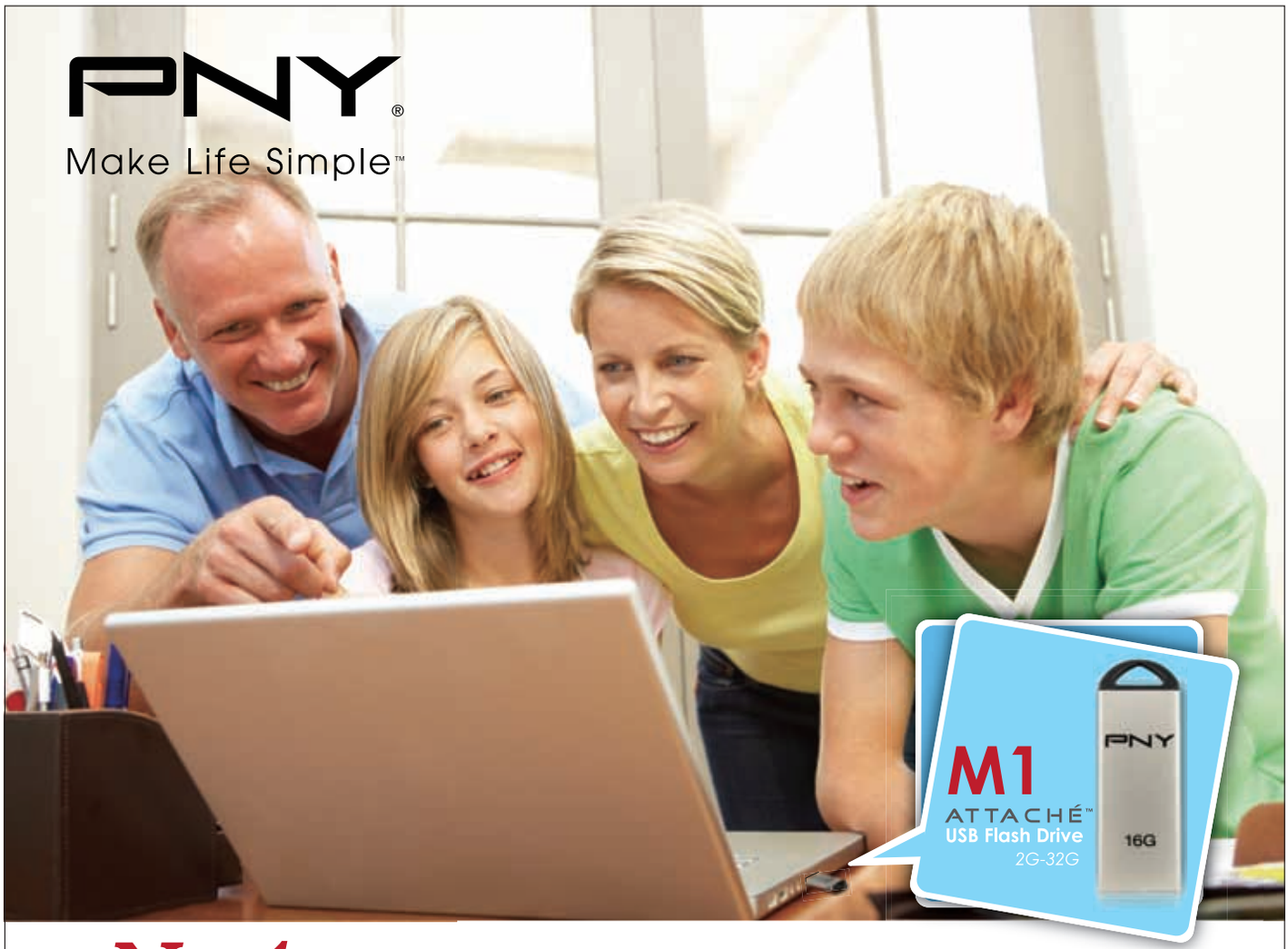

No.1 Market Share in the U.S. retail market

★ Market research from The NPD Group, Inc. Sept, 2011

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enthusiastic response from many buyers. To add to these, ASUS has created a sensation with its innovative hybrid tablet. Called the Eee Pad Transformer, the tablet comes with its own expandable keyboard docking station. The HTC Flyer, which boasts of a 7-inch screen and 1.5-Ghz processor, is one of the fastest tablets in the world.

Apart from the phone and notebook markets, which are obviously seeing a growth spurt, another market with huge potential in India is the home entertainment segment, and AVerMedia, a major global player in multimedia, internet TV and consumer Electronics products is gearing up for this with a slew of new products that promise to make entertainment at home simpler and seamless. Alongside a full-line of TV tuner and personal video recorder products, AVerMedia manufactures document cameras, digital video makers, TV photo viewers and PC-to-TV converters for consumer, corporate and educational markets. Watch out for the Game Capure HD (C281), a standalone 1080i capture box for Playstation 3 and Xbox 360 that guarantees a prompt and robust HD video capture ability and the HomeFree Combo (F210), a latest LAN network streaming TV tuner device, scheduled to hit Indian stores, soon.

Taiwanese-owned companies manufacture more than 70 per cent of all LCD monitors in the entire world. Major brands include ASUS and BenQ, which have a strong Indian base

Taiwan's century

On October 10, 2011, Taiwan celebrated its 100th birthday. To celebrate the occasion, Taiwan Government hosted the EMMA Expo in Chennai and introduced "Taiwan Excellence Pavilion" where TAITRA and 26 of Taiwan's leading ICT brands showcased 100 of their best technological products to the business partners and citizens in South India. In addition, 18 Taiwanese brands of them further joint-sponsored and equipped 4 Indian young opinion leaders with a complete IT Travel Kit to travel with and blog about from Oct. 14~Nov. 3. Interested IT enthusiasts may follow their blogs to get a personal insight of these Taiwan technologies from these 4 IT travelers on http://www.it-travelersgo.com Lucky followers may also win a Taiwan ICT gadget by reading and sharing these blogs with your friends.

Taiwan strives for innovation and research, like this Folding Phone concept from Industrial Technology Research Institute, Taiwan and Pilot Fish

Worldwide tablet shipments from Taiwan expected to go from 35 million units in 2011 to a whopping 116 million units in 2014!

What about India?

We're not just buyers, as some would think. Yes, although manufacturers from all over the world are targeting the spending power of rich to middle-class Indians, it's the average Indian developer that will gain the most. Thanks to Taiwanese expertise in manufacturing, an ever increasing number of people are buying the latest, sleek, intelligent products –based on popular platforms such as Windows and Android. Since these same products are sold by Taiwan brands globally, a rather large worldwide market opens up to the Indian developer. The timing has never been better for an India-Taiwan (software-device) combination that can take over markets all over the globe – a rather win-win situation for both sides.

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PRODUCT WATCH

Although we can't feature all of the hundreds of products that Taiwanese brands launch – on pretty much a weekly basis, at that – we can give you a peek at the top products to come from Taiwan, which will hit Indian stores soon

AVerMedia HomeFree Combo F210

Do you enjoy watching TV, but have too many devices and hate cables running all over your home? Then the AVerMedia HomeFree Combo F210 is what you need. Just connect this network-streaming device to a wireless router and your TV, and voila! Live broadcasts on your iPad or Windows PC. You can watch an HBO movie on your PC, or catch the news on your iPad! If that's not enough, you can also record and playback with a mere click.

BenQ Joybee GP2

This mini LED projector is packed to the brim with loads of features. It includes an all-in-one iPhone/iPod-compatible dock, an optional battery pack for 2 hrs of viewing time, power-efficient 3LED projection, 720p short-throw projection, 200 ANSI lumen brightness, supports almost all formats, has an SD card slot, a USB reader, can store 2 GB of data in its internal memory, and even has 2W stereo speakers. Sharing videos, photos and games with family and friends on a brilliant 160-inch cinematic display was never this easy!

ASUS Eee Pad Transformer

ASUS' Transformer has a 10.1-inch screen and is a cross between a tablet and a laptop. Use the docking station and you have a notebook PC with a comfortably spaced QWERTY keyboard; detach the dock and it's a tablet – just walk away, still computing to your heart's content. The device runs Android 3.0 Honeycomb and supports 10-finger multi-touch. Under the hood is a dual-core 1 GHz NVIDIA Tegra 2 processor, 1 GB RAM and 16/32GB storage. The docking station has its own battery, and the combined device can stay powered for up to 16 hours!

ASUS Padfone

Another breakthrough product from ASUS which combines smartphone and tablet into one symbiotic device that allows you to choose the screen size that best fits your activities. With the Padfone, the smartphone docks inside the tablet to recharge from the tablet's larger battery and the tablet can also make use of the smartphone's 3G internet connection. Apps transition seamlessly when you switch between the two devices too! Brilliant!

ASUS G74SX

The latest bad boy among high-performance gaming laptops, the ASUS G74SX has a 17.3-inch, full HD, Glare 3D screen, a quad-core Intel Core i7 2670QM processor, 16 GB of DDR3 RAM, 2 x 750 GB, 7200 rpm hard drives and an NVIDIA GeForce GT 560M GPU with 3 GB of dedicated RAM! If that doesn't tame the most demanding games, nothing else will. Overall, a jewel from the ASUS stable.

ADATA Nobility SH14 Portable Hard Drive

ADATA Nobility SH14 Portable Hard Drive features military-grade shock resistance, and is water-resistant thanks to its smooth, non-slip, silicone exterior. It's a 2.5-inch, 5400 RPM drive and delivers a blazing fast 90 Mbps transfer rate thanks to the USB 3 interface. Available in passion red and jet black, and 500 GB, 750 GB, and 1 TB capacities, this stylish new addition brings to the market a strong combination of fashion and ultimate durability!

MSI GT680

If the computing work that you do entails churning around large amounts of data, then you must get hold of a device like the GT680. This laptop is supported by MSI's turbo drive engine technology, which can boost up speeds by as much as 75 per cent! The laptop also features an exclusive cooler boost technology, so you never have to worry about overheating, especially considering the power on tap here.

HTC Explorer

HTC has just introduced ones of its most affordable, yet full-featured Android smartphones, HTC Explorer, that looks set to provide feature phone upgraders with more innovation options. Dubbed HTC Explorer, it sports a distinctive design, 600 MHz processor and a 480x320 HVGA capacitive display. The petite, well-built HTC Explorer, which will feature Sense 3.5 and comes with Android's Gingerbread 2.3 build, will be available Asia starting in Q4 2011, with India as the global launch market. HTC Explorer offers users the perfect blend of ease of use, design and trademark HTC innovation that promises to be a hit in the budget smartphone market.

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YouTube sells merchandise
YouTube launched its Merch store, which allows buying and selling of merchandise, including music

Inner Eye
A smartphone ultrasound device has been launched, facilitating scanning on the go

Google enters its teen years, celebrates with a party-themed doodle

Now officially a teenager, Google celebrated its 13th birth anniversary on September 27th along with a doodle on its homepage featuring the five letters of the company logo donning party hats, seated around a cake with balloons and gifts – a typical birthday party scene.

When clicked, the Google doodle directs you to the search results for "Google". The popular search engine giant was started as a research project by Larry Page and Sergey Brin in 1996. The company filed for Inc. on September 4, 1998 and booked the Google.com domain on September 15, 1998. However, the company officially chose to celebrate its birthday on September 27.

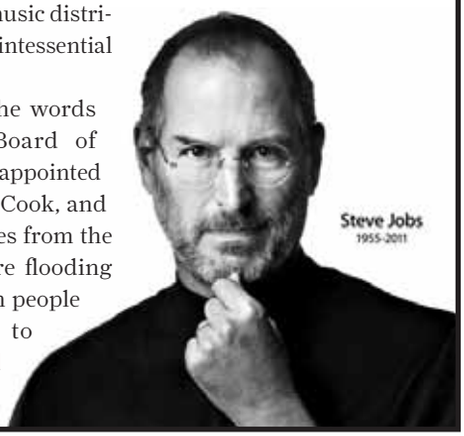
Google's 13th anniversary comes at a time when the Internet giant is facing stiff competition from Facebook. As you may have already noticed, the rivalry between Google and Facebook has intensified, with both sides frequently rolling out new services and features. On the other hand, Google still enjoys strong presence online with research showing that Google is maintaining a nearly 90 per cent share of the global search engine market.

The world loses an icon

Steve Jobs passed away on October 5th, aged 56, succumbing to the pancreatic cancer he'd been battling since 2004. The co-founder and chief architect of one of the biggest companies in the world, Apple Inc., Jobs was a visionary who had a large hand in shaping the world we live in today, giving us everything from the personal computer, to digital music distribution and the quintessential smartphone.

Apart from the words from Apple's Board of Directors, newly appointed Apple CEO Tim Cook, and Bill Gates, tributes from the common man are flooding the Internet, with people also flocking to Apple's stores and offices to leave mementos, flowers, pictures and post-its in memoriam to the enigmatic futurist.

A creative genius, Steve Jobs's zealful personality was one of the principal driving forces behind personal computing, one of the folks "crazy enough" to change the world. The sad news of his demise has had a profound effect on all of us. R.I.P Steve Jobs.



Samsung launches mirrorless camera - the NX200

Samsung is now setting its sights on the high-end camera segment as it reveals its target to sell nearly 150,000 - 250,000 units of its "mirrorless" cameras by the end of this year. Samsung has high expectations from its NX range of cameras, which are known for their interchangeable lenses and mirrorless design. Samsung's announcement comes close on the heels of the launch of the new NX Series camera called the NX200.

The NX200 has been initially launched in Korea and is likely to be rolled out globally by the end of October. It is said to be a lighter and sleeker version of its predecessors and is capable of taking faster shots without distorting the quality of the images. The device has been priced at $840 (₹40,000) in Korea.

However, it's not only Samsung who's manufacturing mirrorless cameras. Brands such as Olympus and Panasonic have already been selling mirrorless cameras for quite some time now. The latest to join the mirrorless camera bandwagon is Nikon with its Nikon 1 series camera. The cameras are scheduled to go on sale in Japan and are expected to be priced between $500-1,000 (₹25,000-50,000)

Headphone for the spinners
David Guetta launched Beats mixer DJ cans made by Dr Dre .This headset has been designed with DJs in mind

Nikon Coolpix P7100
Nikon P7100 is for a high-end user, sporting a 10.1 megapixel CCD and a 7.1x optical zoom lens with Vibration Reduction

Sennheiser India intros three Adidas Originals headphones for the festive season

Sennheiser Electronics India has launched three new headphones for the Indian festive season, two streetwear models for consumers – HD 220 and CX 310 – and one premium model for audio professionals and DJs – HD 25, with rotatable capsules for one-ear listening.

All three headphones have been launched in collaboration with Adidas Originals. According to the press release, the "trefoil brand" has been

"linked to the music scene for a long time and is connected uniquely to the beginnings of Hip Hop in the 1980s." What this means here is that famous trefoil design of the brand, and/or its current three-stripes Originals avatar, will feature prominently onboard, making the headphones even more appealing to sports fans, hip hoppers and the general youth.

For more details about the Sennheiser Adidas Originals headphones, refer to the Sennheiser India site at http://bit.ly/pugUYO. They're available at all major electronic stores across the country.

Croma offers Intel Anti-Theft Service

Croma has announced that it's now retailing Intel Anti-Theft Technology (Intel AT), as an optional upgrade for Sandy Bridge-based laptops at its stores. The initiative is said to be a first of its kind in the country and is available exclusively at Croma.

The Intel Anti-Theft Service is custom activated on laptops with the Sandy-Bridge processors, and allows customers to remotely lock down their missing, or stolen laptops. The built-in technology works even if the hard drive is reimaged, a new hard drive installed, or the boot order changed. The laptop will remain locked, and will not boot. The lock down is activated via an Internet notification or intelligent hardware timers.

Users will be able to also display a custom message on their locked laptops. Laptops can then be fully revived to normal functionality with the user's personal password.

Croma will offer the theft protection service bundled with select laptops as well as offering it as a paid option starting ₹199 for a period of two years. Intel will be responsible for service hosting, customer support and working with different OEMs to ensure their laptop hardware is embedded with the technology.

Indian government launches Aakash tablet; to be sold for ₹3k in retail

The Indian government's ultra-low cost tablet, now known as "Aakash", has been officially launched. The Aakash tablet, previously nicknamed as Sakshat, looks different from the prototype flaunted by the telecom minister, Kapil Sibal, last year. However, the specs of the device remain as previously reported.

The Aakash tablet will be manufactured by Datawind, it runs on the Android 2.2 Froyo OS and offers Wi-Fi and USB connectivity, 256 MB of RAM, 2GB in-built storage, which is expandable by up to 32 GB via microSD (2GB microSD card bundled).

There are two versions of the device — the more basic Aakash tablet, for educational institutions, will be sold at $35 (₹1,750) and the Ubislate tablet, for retail at $60 (₹3,000). The UbiSlate come bundled with a cellular mode DataWind has also set up a new production line in Hyderabad to manufacture the tablets.

Facebook unveils Timeline and Open Graph apps at f8 Developer Conference

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced some brand new features which you will see on Facebook in the coming weeks, at the f8 Conference in San Francisco. Zuckerberg laid out Facebook's vision for the future of profiles on Facebook, integration of music streaming services, news aggregation and other content spotting on the web site.

Mark Zuckerberg introduces Timeline

The first feature that was unveiled was Timeline. This is a complete revamp of the website. Timeline is a new way to express yourself to the world. It aggregates all the content you have created and uploaded on Facebook in a nice flip book sort of way. The idea behind this being that a person is much more than his present status, according to Zuckerberg.

There is a central line which splits your screen into half and there are dots which expand on either side of the line to give information on the person. As you scroll down you will get to know about the major events from the person's life in the form of photos, videos, status updates, apps, etc. This timeline goes back upto 2004 and then you have a 'Way Back' section where you can upload content from before 2004. Think baby pictures from your birth year, your award winning school essay, videos from your uncle's wedding, etc., all before 2004.

Facebook timeline

One interesting aspect of Timeline is the huge header image which it allows you to upload. Scrolling through the profile can also highlight aspects of the users personality. For instance, if you are a photographer or a musician, then you can put up a powerful header image which communicates that fact. You have complete control over who views your timeline.

Another feature Maps feature, which lets you view where all you have been all these years. This is possible thanks to the Facebook Places integration.

How many times have you wanted to check out an app and had to answer that pop up asking your permission? Well, Open Graph is a whole new category of apps which will allow you to add activity to your stream without addressing any unwanted prompts asking for permission. You will get a single Permissions page that will allow publishing of all the app related data on your timeline.

Pattern Recognition was a common theme in the keynote of Zuckerberg. He plans to make sharing a seamless experience on Facebook. Stuff like streaming music, TV content and news sharing has been around since ages. But Facebook with its new Open Graph app ecosystem, plans to collaborate with a lot of news websites, music streaming services and TV content streaming services to allow you to read news, watch TV and listen to music based on what your friends are doing. So if your friend is listening to a particular song, you will get an update in your Facebook ticker about the same, and you can start listening to that same track simultaneously provided you have the necessary app.

Airtel Broadband launches 'Smartbytes' additional data usage packs

Airtel Broadband customers irked about the fair usage policy and high-speed data transfer limits on their 'unlimited' plans might be happy to learn of the company's latest announcement. Now, instead of settling for a lower bandwidth after reaching their data usage limits, customers can purchase additional data usage packs called Smartbytes.

Airtel Smartbytes range from 1GB to 50GB and start from ₹99. Apart from "augmenting their high speed data transfer limit", Airtel Broadband customers will now have a way to track their monthly data usage, with notifications about their billing cycle and the amount of data left in their plan. Airtel already sends notifications to customers when they've reached 80% and 100% of their high speed data transfer limits.

To use the Airtel Smartbyte service, customers who've used more than 80% of their data transfer limit plan can log on to http://airtel.in/smartbytes via their Airtel DSL connection, and opt for their choice of additional data usage packs, which have been listed below with their pricing:

- 1GB for ₹99
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- 5GB for ₹299
- 10GB for ₹499
- 20GB for ₹799
- 50GB for ₹1,499

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Chrome overtakes Mozilla
Chrome has finally overtaken Firefox in terms of acceptance

Larry and the fox
Mozilla has integrated twitter search into Firefox 8

Google unveils the digital Dead Sea Scrolls – ancient texts, indexed

In keeping with its professed aim of digitizing the real world, so that it is accessible, indexed, and searchable online, Google has collaborated with the Israel Museum, and brought the Digital Dead Sea Scrolls online.

The Dead Sea Scrolls are considered by historians to be the oldest known biblical manuscripts in existence, dating back to the third century BCE and first century CE. The scrolls were discovered in eleven caves on the shores of the Dead Sea, between 1947 and 1956, and have provided scarcely known details about the Second Temple Period, alongside the birth of Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism.

Digital Dead Sea Scrolls

Five complete scrolls have been digitized so far, with The Great Isaiah Scroll the only one featuring the translation option. More will presumably, follow. Accessible by all, the Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Project allows users to examine these ancient treatises in great detail, with fast-loading, searchable high-res images and soon, complete translations as well. Users will also be able to submit translations in their own languages.

Also provided alongside are explanatory videos, background information on the texts and details about their history. The Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Project is certainly a laudable effort by Google, and history buffs have inarguably been given a rich new source of excitement, sitting in the comfort of their homes. We look forward to other treasured and preserved works making their way online, to be preserved indefinitely, digitally, and available to all.

Indian government offers ISP license to Qualcomm

The Indian government has granted an ISP license to Qualcomm. The authorisation paves the way for the company to launch its broadband services in the country.

Qualcomm had paid nearly $1 billion to win Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum for four circles – Delhi, Mumbai, Kerala and Haryana. To launch its services in the country, the company was required to get the ISP license from the Department of Telecommunication (DoT). However, the application for the license was rejected for ostensibly missing the deadline, and seeking a different license.

Qualcomm yesterday disclosed that it had received a letter from the Indian telecom ministry, granting it a license for the four zones. "Qualcomm has received a letter dated October 10 from the department of telecommunications offering to grant us a licence covering all the service areas for which we won spectrum," the company said in response to a query.

Confirming the development, telecom secretary R Chandrasekhar said, "A decision has been taken to grant an ISP licence to the company." He further added that the decision is with respect to one subsidiary designated by the company as a nominee.

Sony security breach temporarily affects 93,000 PSN, SEN and SOE accounts

It's been a while since Sony was hacked, and it seems a bunch of hackers feels much the same way, briefly gaining access to a large number of PlayStation Network, Sony Entertainment Network, and Sony Online Entertainment accounts in mid-October.

Sony announced the breach this morning, after it had locked down approximately 93,000 affected accounts. According to the Japanese giant, the hackers possessed "a massive set of sign-in IDs and passwords," and but were only able to access "less than one-tenth of 1 percent" of all accounts – making this breach not as massive as the first one which took out 77 million PSN and Qriocity accounts earlier this year.

Users whose accounts were affected can already regain access, with Sony sending out password reset mails to reactivate the locked accounts. While the intruders had managed to get past the verification stages, the affected users' credit card information was "not at risk", according to Sony. A "small fraction" of the 93,000 accounts however, "showed additional activity prior to being locked," and Sony is investigating what happened during this period, and will restore any unauthorized transactions.

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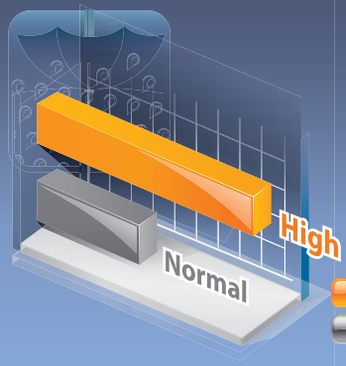
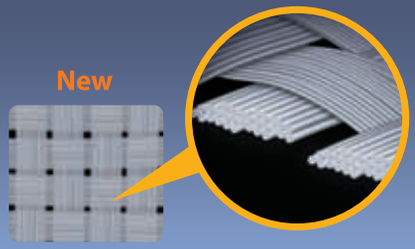
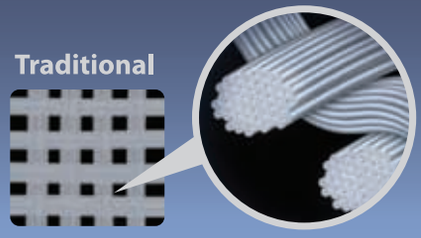


New



Traditional



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Apple iPhone 4S
The launch of the iPhone 4S saw sales of over four million devices over a period of two days

Aakash in the US
Why a ₹3,000 tablet would never succeed in the US **bit.ly/oDobA1**

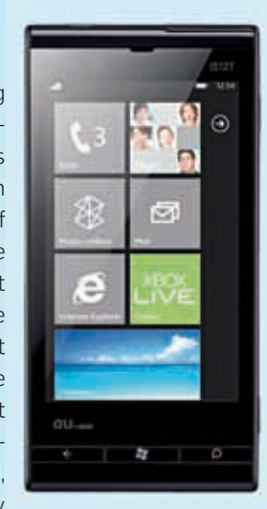
A war in your pocket

A round-up of the current mobile platforms vying for your attention

Symbian OS

Symbian and Nokia have shared a very long and rich heritage in India, with the Nokia Symbian 60 devices being literally synonymous with smartphones. Nokia later bought Symbian OS in 2008 and started developing S60v5 as Symbian ^1 through to the current Belle. A variant of the S60v5, the primary upgrade to the OS was the integration of the UI into the OS itself, which resulted in an increase in performance. By this time of course, the iPhone and Android had launched and Symbian has desperately been trying to play catch-up ever since. The current update, Belle, introduced re-sizeable, live, widgets and, notifications in the lock-screen, NFC and numerous UI tweaks. The interface is also quite zippy and the browser is one of the few mobile browsers that supports flash natively. The future of this OS is still dicey though, especially with its owner, Nokia, planning a switch to the Windows Phone 7.5 OS.

Windows Phone



Microsoft has been making mobile operating systems for almost 10 years now. The interface then looked more like a simplified version of Windows Desktop OS. Windows Mobile underwent a slow evolution, but it wasn't till WM6 and further updates that the OS actually acknowledged the fact that a touchscreen needed something more than a stylus. The interface underwent a serious overhaul, and started incorporating a text based UI. Finally, in 2010, Microsoft launched the completely revamped Windows Mobile OS as Windows Phone 7. The interface was a very unique, list-based Metro "design language". That and the introduction of "live" tiles set the OS apart from its brethren. The initial WP7 OS was an aesthetically pleasing, but essentially crippled OS, not even having the ability to set custom ring tones. It took 2 major upgrades, NODO and Mango, to bring the OS up to speed with the current generation platforms. At its current state, WP7.5, the OS is packed to the gills with features and can give any current mobile OS a run for its money. It does, however, suffer from a severe lack of apps. A complete list of features can be found at http://bit.ly/WPmAnGo.

Apple iOS

The birth of the iOS, formerly iPhone OS, dates back to 2007. At the time it was launched, Nokia with its Symbian OS and BlackBerry OS were the reigning kings of the smartphone market. The initial version of the OS was quite simplistic, lacking even copy-paste functionality. The OS was originally developed for the iPhone, but later on further developed as a platform for all apple devices except the iMac. The OS started picking up speed at an exponential rate and almost single-handedly ousted Nokia from its top spot in the smartphone market by the time iOS 4 was out. The features it introduced were quite revolutionary at the time, but with the advent of the open-source Android OS and the growing threat from Microsoft with its upcoming "Mango" update, iOS 4 started to look old very fast. Finally, apple announced its iOS 5 upgrade for iPhone, iTouch and iPad. The upgrade, while absolutely huge in terms of features was, again, mostly essential updates and just enough to keep the OS at the same level as its competition. iOS 5 did bring along some very interesting features such as air-play mirroring, an improved browser, support for cloud services, PC-less operation and many more. Apple iOS used to set the standard for OSes in its heydey, but at the rate at which OSes are evolving, the iOS is now struggling to keep up. The OS is still as popular as ever though, and as long as Apple keeps updating their software, it is very unlikely that iOS will fall from favour any time soon.

HTC Runnymede

HTC Runnymede, an Android 2.3 powered device, will be called HTC Sensation XL and not HTC Bass, like rumoured earlier

Samsung BADA

Bada is a linux based OS developed by Samsung for, as they put it, "a smartphone for everyone". It was in 2010 that Samsung announced their first Bada 1.0 powered device. When the OS was first launched, it was a very basic OS with just the bare essential features to classify it as a smartphone. With the upgrade to Bada 2.0, the OS is right up there with all the big guns of the smartphone world. The update brings with it speech recognition, multitasking, a full-fledged web browser with flash support, NFC, Push notifications and many more. The app marketplace has also slowly been growing and now includes over 7,000 apps. Samsung has announced plans to make this OS open source and to also integrate it into their upcoming Smart TVs as well. Overall, this OS does have a lot of potential. How the public receives it remains to be seen.

Android

Android is a comparatively new entrant in the smartphone OS arena, but has risen to popularity at such a rapid rate that it has acquired almost half the smartphone market share in the world. The comparatively rapid update cycle meant that despite a rocky start, the OS now sets the norm as far as the mobile OS is concerned. Android has gained a lot of popularity and has completely dethroned Nokia and is slowly eating its way into Apple's, previously untouchable, market share. Now with the release of Android v4.0, the OS is packed to the brim with every feature you can think off, flash support, apps, "goggles", NFC (Android Beam), threaded messaging, tethering, face recognition and many more. The v4.0 upgrade is supposed to be a merger of Honeycomb and Gingerbread. The upgrade does not seem like anything much when compared to the iOS 5 or Mango updates, but this is because the OS already had most of those features integrated to begin with. This OS is here to stay and is only getting better with time.

BlackBerry OS

The ubiquitous businessman's smartphone, BlackBerry did to email what apple did to music. BlackBerry tightly integrates its OS with its devices and tries to ensures quality "push" mail service no matter what. Now, with almost every service that a BlackBerry provides available on most smartphones, BB is rapidly losing market share. BB OS has always been a very good, reliable and secure OS, but was never much of a multimedia device. The recently announced BBX OS update will completely revamp the BlackBerry as a device. It will run on the QNX platform which means that will not be backward compatible with OS7 devices. The OS7 update brings with it an upgraded graphics engine, voice activated search as well as NFC and a much better browser and HD video recording. RIM hopes that this upgrade will keep it in the running as a competitive OS.

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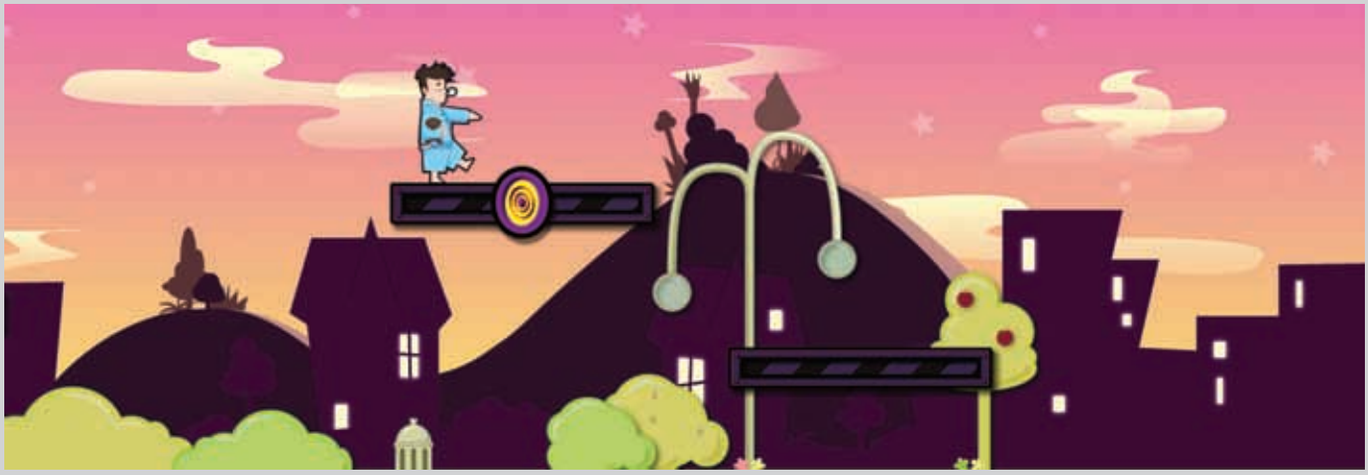

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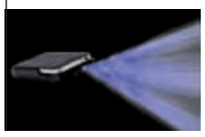

Monolithic Projector!
The Monolith iPhone case has an inbuilt projector and battery backup and is capable of projecting images at a resolution of 640x360

Price-friendly phone
Samsung has launched the Galaxy Y, a low-cost, Android Gingerbread device with the TouchWiz 3 UI

Everyday security threats!

The idea of a secure watertight Web still remains an unattainable dream, despite efforts to make it a reality. Here's what crippled your web experience last month

Sony PSN network hacked again!

These guys just can't catch a break. Gamers on Sony's Playstation Network (or PSN) skipped a heartbeat yet again as the entertainment giant's secure network was targeted by hackers for the n^{th} time this year. On a company blog entry (goo.gl/HH38W), Sony's Chief Information Security Officer, Philip Reitinger announced that "less than one tenth of one percent (0.1%)" of the networks' users may have been affected by a hack attack. Well, that itsy-bitsy number roughly constitutes about 93,000 user accounts. Yeah, you read that right.

However, Sony maintains that credit card data of affected user accounts isn't at risk. "We will work with any users whom we confirm have had

unauthorized purchases made to restore amounts in the PSN/SEN or SOE wallet," Reitinger further said. If you can't get on to Sony's PSN, don't fret—affected Sony Online Entertainment accounts have been turned off. Users "will receive an email from us at the address associated with your account that will advise you on next steps in order to validate your account credentials and have your account turned back on."

Meanwhile, Facebook's privacy woes continue...

Security and privacy glitches constantly hound Facebook, an unwanted trend for the world's largest social network. To counter the spread of malicious links through its medium, Facebook recently started scanning for malicious URLs on its network – a seemingly wise move, right? Yes, maybe, but FB's new security measure didn't work for too long.

A certain "hatter" from a hacking group called Blackhat Academy provided a live demo of how to circumvent Facebook's latest security feature. There goes Facebook's partnership with Websense to use a real-time, cloud-based scanner for detecting malicious viral URLs. Probably didn't see that coming, did you Facebook? Let's hope you up the ante some more.

IE9 is more secure than Chrome, Firefox

Yeah, that's right. According to a recent report, Microsoft has launched a new web site to educate netizens about security issues in modern Web browser, hoping they take browser security extremely seriously. The web site – yourbrowsermatters.org – lets you gauge the strength of your

browser against the nasties of the Internet.

For example, the web site lets you view scores of various browsers — Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, and Mozilla Firefox are the only browsers supported for now. It isn't surprising that Microsoft's IE9 scores a perfect 4 out of 4; Chrome and Firefox don't get full marks. There's no detailed explanation in the "malware" tab of the window as to how Microsoft tabulates scores, but we guess, just like beautyoftheweb.com, one will have to take these scores with a pinch of salt.

Microsoft argues on its blog (goo.gl/z5eLt), citing its latest Security Intelligence Report (goo.gl/DHDnS), that zero-day attacks amount for less than 10 per cent on the web these days, where most successful malware proliferate through outdated software and social media. And as IE9 is better in countering these specific holes, you're better off using it. Compelling argument?

On hacker territory

If you were ever wondering how a hacker forum compares to any other online forum, wait no more. Imperva, a security firm, has released a monthly report detailing the topic trends of an online hacker forum with 2,20,000 registered members. Although most of the members are dormant, the forum is a hotbed for hackers discussing training methods. It's a platform for collaborating, recruitment and even commercial activities (selling stolen data and malware). It's an insightful read, just go here: http://goo.gl/cPJP7

Stuxnet returns

A worm, using a variant of the stuxnet code, labelled Duqu because of the DQ prefix on files it creates, has been detected and is currently being analysed by McAfee and Symantec among others. The worm is essentially similar to Stuxnet and thus, is targeting industrial systems at the moment. It's currently only gathering detailed information including security certificate which, experts suggest, will be used for launching further attacks. The virus was initially designed with a lifespan of 36 days and experts are very concerned as to what Duqu 2 will be like. Especially considering that stuxnet was designed to pull down Iran's nuclear program.

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Project Roslyn
Microsoft has reinvented compilers with Roslyn Technology that deconstructs every piece of code as a service

High-tech magic
Watch Marco Tempest pull off some amazing high-tech magic tricks involving iPhones, Google+ and more **http://bit.ly/qjCmfg**

Racing fever on your smartphone!

With Formula 1 coming to India for the first time, the excitement has ensured that a lot more people than ever before follow F1 now. For the true fans amongst us, there are a bunch of smartphone apps that are helpful. Particularly when Race Day is on and you're away from a television

Vishal Mathur
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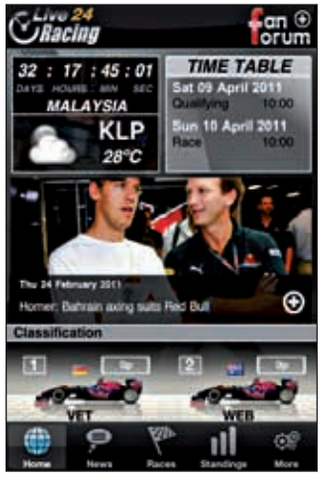
F1 2011 Timing App CP

By: Soft Pauer
Available for Android, iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad
Price: ₹1,455 (Android Market), ₹1,589 (Apple App Store)
Download size: 1.28 - 15.1 MB

F1 2011 Timing App CP

This is a must-have application for all F1 fans. Featuring live updates of lap times, maps with the car positions on track and the ability to follow a driver around the circuit. Plus, you get text updates. We know this is a slightly pricey app, but it's definitely worth it. Just make sure you have a fast net connection with an unlimited data plan.



Formula1.com 2011

Formula1.com 2011

By: Formula1.com
Available for: Android, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, BlackBerry and Symbian
Price: FREE (on all platforms)
Download size: 1.1 - 2.3 MB

A truly global app for the smartphone ecosystem, it covers most smartphone platforms. You get race weekend details, session timings, live timings, track data, lap times and the championship standings. Download this on your phone, it's free anyway.

F1 2011 Live24 (also known as Live-sports24 F1 Racing)

By: Genera Mobile
Available for: Android, iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad
Price: FREE (on all platforms)
Download size: 1.1 - 1.6 MB

This app perfectly blends functionality, lots of features and a visually impressive UI. Multiple boxes display all the info you need. In the first tab, you see the countdown to the race, updates when it goes live, the venue and the venue track weather conditions. The second tab shows the date and time of the various sessions scheduled for that race weekend. An image gallery is also available, as are dedicated profiles for each driver, complete with their career stats.

Racing games:

If you don't want to follow F1 seriously, we're sure some racing games for the smartphones will surely catch your fancy.

- NFS Shift – available for Android and iOS.
- NFS Shift 2 Unleashed – available for iOS
- Asphalt 6 Adrenaline – available for Android and iOS.

F1 2011 Timing App CP

RIM explains reasons for BlackBerry Crash

The fact that BlackBerry services were out for almost three days, spanning four continents (Yes, America joined the fray on the third day), led to a lot of teeth gnashing.

RIM released a statement saying, "Although the system is designed to failover to a back-up switch, the failover did not function as previously tested. As a result, a large backlog of data was generated and we are now working to clear that backlog and restore normal service as quickly as possible. We apologize for any inconvenience and we will continue to keep you informed." Apart from the services not working properly, it was very annoying that none of our cellular operators were giving out information about the reasons why the services were down and when they would be back. Three days of sheer madness!

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Service Offering Overview

- **Web Hosting**
- **Dedicated Servers**
- **Hosted CRM**
- **Mail and Messaging Services**
- **Co-Location**
- **Content Management Systems**
- **Virtual Private Servers (VPS)**
- **Web Designing**
- **E-Commerce**

Data Centers: Highlights

- 44,000 square feet of data center space.
- We have multiple power and cooling distribution path with only one active and includes redundant components (N+1).
- Raised floor and sufficient and distribution to carry load on one path.
- UPS, Generator, secondary generator.
- Redundant power sources (A+B).
- BGP network with five tier1 providers.
- Canadian Data Center.
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Actual Data Center Pictures

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